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REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are currently pending. Claims 20-25 have been added to enhance the scope of patent coverage. Claims 1, 15, 18, and 19 have been amended for clarification purposes only. The support for new claims 20-25 is found on page 4, lines 13-17, of the specification as filed, the original claims, and elsewhere. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

The Patent Office objected to claims 1, 15, 18, and 19 as containing a misspelled word. The word "organise" or "organised" was correctly spelled, but, to facilitate prosecution, the spelling has been changed to that commonly used in the United States. Applicant requests that the Patent Office remove its objection to claims 1, 15, 18, and 19.

The Patent Office rejected claims 1, 3-9, and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0158837.

A claim is anticipated by a reference if each and every non-inherent limitation is disclosed by that reference. MPEP 2131.

The aspects of this invention, as claimed in claim 1, relate to an electronic device comprising a digital camera, a user input device, a memory means storing computer program instructions and a processor. The processor is operable under the control of the computer program instructions to provide separately a database application and a camera control application. The database application is arranged to enable a user to access personal data organized as a plurality of entries in a database. Each of the plurality of entries is associated with a different person and has one or more alphanumeric text fields and an image field. The camera control application is arranged to enable the user to control the device, using the user input device to capture an image via the digital camera and to present a user selectable option, on capturing an image, for entering the database application and using the captured image as an image field of an entry of a database.

Claim 15 relates to a corresponding method of modifying a database.

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The Patent Office has rejected claims 1 and 15 and all their dependent claims on the grounds that they are either anticipated by or are obvious in view of Suzuki (US 2003/0158837 A1). Suzuki relates to an electronic apparatus capable of storing a photograph of a person together with data related to that person in the address book. A user can store an image in the address book by activating the mode for entering data into the address book. The device will determine whether or not a photograph is to be taken and if a photograph is to be taken will enter photograph shooting mode. When the device is in photograph shooting mode, the address book information is displayed on the display together with the real time image obtained through the view finder.

Suzuki does not disclose presenting a user selectable option, upon capturing an image, of entering a database application and saving the captured image in the database, as claimed in the amended claims. In Suzuki, the decision must be taken before the picture is captured, because the database application must already be running. This difference over Suzuki provides an improved user interface as the user is given an opportunity to enter the database application after the image has been captured, whereas in Suzuki the device must already be in the mode for entering data into the address book before the image is captured. As one non-limiting example, this provides the advantage that a user may be taking photographs for a reason other than to obtain an image to store in the address book but is still given the opportunity, upon capturing the image, to decide to save the image to the address book.

This feature is not disclosed or suggested in any of the other cited documents, and therefore the applicant maintains that the invention as claimed in claims 1 to 17 is new and non-obvious with respect to the cited documents.

The Patent Office rejected claims 2 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Kahn, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2001/0050875.

Kahn discloses assigning a memory size to an image or deleting an image (e.g., paragraphs 0007, 0011, 0017, 0022, 0101, 0105) that may be accomplished automatically or by manual intervention by a user, but Kahn does not disclose or fairly suggest assigning an image to an image field.

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The Patent Office rejected claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Morita, U.S. Patent No. 6,766,018.

Morita appears to disclose replacing a displayed image by a currently decoded image that is acquired through a search result of a phone book and does not appear to disclose capturing an image nor presenting a user selectable option, on capturing an image, for entering a database. Neither Suzuki nor Morita appear to disclose or fairly suggest “wherein the camera control application is arranged to enable the user to control the device using the user input device to capture an image via the digital camera and to present a user selectable option, on capturing an image, for entering the database application and using the captured image as an image field of an entry of the database.”

The Patent Office has rejected claims 18 and 19 on the ground that they are obvious with respect to Suzuki in view of Sato (EP 1,067,748).

Claim 18 relates to an electronic device comprising a message reception means, a user input device, a memory means storing computer program instructions and a processor. The processor is operable under the control of the computer program instructions to provide separately a database application and a messaging application. The database application is arranged to enable a user to access personal data organized as a plurality of entries in a database. Each of the plurality of entries is associated with a different person and has one or more alphanumeric text fields and an image field. The messaging application is arranged to display a received message including an image and to present a user selectable option for using the image as an image field of an entry in the database.

Claim 19 relates to a method of modifying a database using images obtained from an incoming message.

Sato discloses a telephone apparatus having an image data registering function for registering images that have been received by a communication means. Identification data is stored in a storage means while the image data is stored in a memory card. The identification data may include a reference to the location of the image in the card, thus the identification data

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and the image data can be related to each other so that when a call is incoming an image can be displayed corresponding to the identity of the incoming caller. Sato does not disclose displaying images from a received message and giving a user an option of saving these images in a database.

There would be no reason why a person skilled in the art would look to combine the teachings of Sato with those of Suzuki as they relate to different technical areas. For example, Suzuki relates specifically to an electronic device which allows a user to enter images into a database by enabling a user to access the camera control application and capture an image when they are entering data into the address book. This is achieved by using the area of the address book display as a viewfinder to display the real time image obtained by the camera. There would be no reason why a person skilled in the art would look to introduce features from Sato as Sato relates to enabling a telephone to display images of incoming callers using images which have been received, presumably via a communication means.

Even if a person were to combine the teachings of Sato and Suzuki, they still would not produce the claimed invention as even in combination Sato and Suzuki do not disclose all of the features of the present invention. Neither Sato nor Suzuki disclose the feature of presenting an option, for using an image, from a displayed message, as an image field of an entry of a database as claimed in the present invention.

Therefore for the above mentioned reasons the applicant maintains that the invention as claimed in claims 18 and 19 is both new and non-obvious in respect of cited prior art.

Claims 20-25 are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record for reasons similar to those reasons for the allowability of claims 1-19.

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of the claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Suzuki or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Suzuki in view of Morita, Sato, and/or Kahn, and to allow all of the pending claims 1-25 as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of claims 1-25 is earnestly solicited.



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Respectfully submitted:

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